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Chief Justice Taney is given more space than Talleyrand or Görres is allotted three columns while Tillemont is assigned scarcely more than half a column.

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COMAN, KATHARINE. *Economic Beginnings of the Far West*. Vols. I and II.

Pp. xxviii, 868. Price, \$2.00 each. New York: Macmillan Company, 1912.

These volumes are the product of several years of investigation and research during which the author traversed much of the trans-Mississippi West and had access to the more important historical collections of that region. As a result of this travel and study we have here gathered together a great amount of data on the "Economic Beginnings of the Far West." The first volume is devoted to "Explorers and Colonizers," although it includes only a portion of the American colonization. In part I, The Spanish Occupation (1542-1846), the author, after introducing the well-known route to the Orient and telling of the Spanish search for the seven cities of Ciboba, proceeds to consider the colonization of Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico and California. Of the twenty-two pages devoted to Texas, one-half are given over to "the coming of the Americans," but this only to the beginnings of the "coming," for the American colonization of Texas comprises chapter IV of part III. Seventy-one pages describe the Spanish Occupation of California (1769-1840). Part II traces the Russian, English and Spanish explorations on the Northwest Coast and takes up on the western bank of the Mississippi the French, English and American search for the western sea. The remaining pages of this volume are given over to a résumé of the rise and decline of the fur trade, and these eighty-six pages justify the title of this ambitious work. In volume two the advance of the settlers into Missouri, Iowa, and Texas is discussed as a preliminary to the transcontinental migration which results in the acquisition of Oregon and the conquest of California. Dropping for a time the consideration of these movements achieved by the "desire to better material conditions," Miss Coman presents an excellent chapter on the Mormon migration. The economic beginnings of these pilgrims are brought with particular clearness before our eyes. As in the portion devoted to the Spanish occupation the most thorough discussion of this volume is of California. Forty-two pages are then given over to what is termed "Free Land and Free Labor" in which we are plunged rather abruptly into a discussion of slavery as an economic factor and which includes a rapid summary of the political developments in reference to the settlement of the territories. The volume concludes with brief reference to the Pacific Railway and the Homestead Act.

The reader is impressed with the variety of material drawn upon, but in lieu of footnotes he finds that the numeral at the end of quotation or extract refers to a note amid a mass of notes placed between the pages of the text and the bibliography. These numerals run as high as sixty-nine in chapter three of the second volume and when one finds no chapter references at page headings and of necessity must turn forward to discover chapter number (being careful also to note the part) before he may turn back to read the more extended extract or to discover the authority, he is tempted to believe that the notes were not intended

for use. There are thirty-one pages of these notes, in close print, and it is a pity that this valuable part of the work should be so inaccessible.

There is an extensive bibliography which impresses one with the wealth of material at hand to write the history of the trans-Mississippi region. The omission of the publications of the Texas Historical Association is marked. On page 350 of volume two the reference to Pierce should be, of course, to Buchanan; on page 246, the date of the Bear Flag raising 1846 instead of June 15, 1848.

Miss Coman has done a real service in compiling this information of the trans-Mississippi West and in placing it in such a readable shape. The work should have a wide appeal. The style is simple, the narrative easy-flowing, and the most involved of the topics are developed with the skill of an unusual teacher. In spite of the rather extended consideration of diplomatic and political developments the author disclaims any intention of deciding the merits of the struggles, preferring "to suggest the underlying economic conditions that determined the outcome of war and treaty and race competition." We have here an extended compilation of what the men who explored and colonized thought of the country and of their work. Pages of extract from journal, diary, letter and report are evidence of this. For an exhaustive treatment and a satisfactory interpretation of the various parts of this extensive field we must turn as before to the work of the scholars who are searching each for his own section. This does not in any sense detract from the value of these volumes in fulfilling the purpose for which they were apparently intended. The work is profusely illustrated.

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D'OLLONE, V. *In Forbidden China*. Pp. 318. Price, \$3.50. Boston: Small, Maynard & Co., 1912. Koo, VI K. W. *The Status of Aliens in China*. Pp. 359. Price, \$2.50. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1912.

Few books of travel and exploration reach the standard here maintained. The D'Ollone mission in the years 1906-09 visited some of the still unexplored regions of China, Tibet, and Turkestan.

Only a portion of the itinerary is described in detail. The experiences in the country of the Lolos tribes still independent of Chinese authority in the region north of Tonkin and south of Tibet, and in crossing unexplored territory in the latter country, occupy all except a few chapters on Szechuen, the great central province of China, and recounting briefly the return of the head of the mission eastward toward the coast. Though traveling through territories uniformly reported as hostile, with one exception the mission at no time came to blows with the inhabitants. Diplomacy proved mightier than the sword. The descriptions of tropic forests, rivers which disappear into the earth to emerge again at great distances, rugged mountains, almost impenetrable jungles and marshes, tribal wars, the life of the nomad tribes, native religions, architecture, sculpture, arts and crafts, social customs, and religious sects are all done in a way which holds the reader's interest. Large numbers of people are shown to be living in true feudal conditions in interior China, many of the tribes are distinctly non-Chinese, and the connections of many, the evidence seems to show, must have been with